

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF SHARING A DEVICE BETWEEN PARTITIONS
OF A LOGICALLY PARTITIONED COMPUTER SYSTEM**

5

A method, system and apparatus for allowing a device to be shared among partitions of a logically partitioned computer system are provided. A table is used to cross-reference a list of devices with a list of partitions that may share the devices. When a partition needs to use a device, it sends a request to a control node. Upon receiving the request, the control node consults the table to determine whether the partition has permission to use the device. If so and the device is currently idle, the control node will reassign the device to the requesting partition. If the device is busy, the control node will so notify the partition. After the requesting partition has used the device, the device will be reassigned to the partition to which it was originally assigned.